

The background of the entire poster is a stylized, wavy American flag. The top left corner features a blue field with white stars, while the rest of the image is composed of red and white horizontal stripes that flow across the frame.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CANTON ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
LIBERTY FEST

JUNE 15, 16 AND 17, 2017

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26 years of Liberty Fest fun

On June 15-17, Canton's annual Liberty Fest will light up Heritage Park for the 26th time. Summer in our community just wouldn't be complete without the great food, spectacular entertainment and magnificent fireworks enjoyed at this weekend full of family fun.

We have three action-packed days planned for everyone's favorite summer tradition.

I am happy to say that there is truly something for everyone at Liberty Fest.

Thursday evening features live entertainment around the park, and Friday features a very special Octonauts show for the younger crowd. Friday evening the whole family can enjoy the popular Canton Fire Fighters Charity Foundation annual spaghetti dinner and more live entertainment.

On Saturday morning, the Canton Liberty Run treks through parts of the community, and I will be cooking and serving up pancakes with the Canton Lions Club from 7-11 a.m.

A big part of Liberty Fest is the food and beverages. New for this year, the Beer Tent and the Taste of Liberty Fest will be located near the amphitheater. Festival-goers can enjoy signature menu items from area restaurants, and adult beverages from Liberty Street Brewing. Of course other festival favorites will be available all weekend, scattered throughout the park. We are talking about corn dogs, cotton candy, kettle corn, elephant ears and more!

Carnival rides are available every day for the adventure-seekers in your family. Wristbands are available for purchase on site or at a discounted rate online at www.cantonlibertyfest.com.

Liberty Fest wraps up on Saturday night when the sky explodes with one of the largest and most spectacular fireworks shows in Michigan. Tens of thousands of neighbors will fill Heritage Park, area back yards, Pheasant Run Golf Club, and roads in the area to view this absolutely incredible aerial show.



Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams

This year we will continue Canton's proud tradition of presenting a family-friendly weekend event. Most events and activities are available with little or no cost to festival attendees. For a full schedule of events, please visit www.cantonlibertyfest.com

I hope to see all of you at Liberty Fest 2017!

Pat Williams
Canton Supervisor

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International Festival celebrates diversity

The Canton Liberty Fest continues the traditional International Festival during the highly-anticipated summer community event.

A variety of cultures from around the world will join a celebration of diversity from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. Saturday, June 17, on the Canton LIVE! Stage in Heritage Park.

The free events on the outdoor stage Saturday will include performances from countries across the globe, including: China, India, Italy, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Tahiti, the United States, Native American, African American and Hawaiian/Polynesian.

"Our International Festival provides a great opportunity for audience members to experience music and dance from around the globe all in one location," said Canton Performing Arts



Coordinator Joe Kvoriak. "Audience members of all ages will be delighted as the stage comes alive with colorful costuming and exotic instruments

when these talented individuals share their heritage and some traditions that date back centuries."

Groups and performers expected to



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Sunday: Closed



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"Dr. John"

take the stage, include: Hoaloha - Hawaiian, Polynesian, New Zealand, & Tahitian Dance; Julzie Gravel - Soloist; Sunshine Children's Choir directed by Sherry Yan & Howard Zhang; Indian Dance with Ashima Grewal; Triple Threat Dance & Theatre Company; Verdi Opera Theatre of Michigan, featuring Soprano, Ryan Blankenburg, Tenor, and Darius Dillard; Michigan New Century Chinese School Performances; Yangtze Melody Group; Steppers, Mimes, & Praise Dancers from New Hope Baptist Church of Wayne; Ann Hua Waist Drum Team directed by Xue Min Cheng; Dance the Life Mantra Academy with Choreographer Forum Vyas; Ebony Copper - Native American Flute by Wanda & Ron Jones; heart Melody Group & Others; Angela Bolon, a Pipa Soloist and Student of Mr. Tian; Clivia Dance Group, choreographed by Jessie Li; Interaction Dance, choreographed by Sharon Kang; Sitar Performance



featuring Charvik Vaishnav, a student of Manjula Verma; Asian Indian Dance Group of Canton students of Parul Shah; Canton Summit Dance Team performing "Vengana Ver" translation "My Farm;" Joyas de Mexico Ballet directed by Luly del Real; and Spotlight Players.

The performances, presented by the Canton Commission for Culture, Arts & Heritage Multicultural Committee, are suitable for all ages. This global celebration will also feature cultural displays and a small marketplace where cultural items, as well as henna tattoos, can be purchased.



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Canton Rotary Club will operate festival beer tent

Liberty Festival visitors looking for the Rotary Club beer tent won't find the popular attraction in the usual spot.

The tent has been moved this year to the area near the amphitheater where most of the food vendors are located around the lake in Heritage Park, according to Rotarian Bill Tesen.

Tesen, a charter member of the Canton Rotary Club since inception in 1977, has been one of the volunteers helping serve craft beer, hard cider, water and soda at the Rotary Beer Tent during the Canton Liberty Festival for the past three years.

"This will be our fourth year. It isn't our first rodeo," Tesen said. He is

*We buy the beer
from Liberty Street
Brewery in Plymouth
and we have
10 taps going
all the time.*

hoping the new location, which will have three entrances, will attract the usual crowds to the tent. He admits the beer tent is a huge attraction dur-

ing the festival.

"We're really family oriented and we have never had a problem of any type," he said.

Tesen will be among the Rotarians, wives, girlfriends and family members serving up the drinks during the festival. There will also be volunteers from Canton Leisure Services helping out because it does get busy. He said he couldn't estimate the number of visitors at the tent but knew that more than 10 kegs of beer were served last year.

"We buy the beer from Liberty Street Brewery in Plymouth and we have 10 taps going all the time," Tesen said. "It's just a great atmosphere and people enjoy it."

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All of the proceeds from the tent will go to the Rotary Club Foundation, dedicated to helping the community and some international causes.

"All the money goes for good causes," Tesen said. This year, the group is also sponsoring a 50-50 drawing during the festival hoping to generate funds to help pay for an international project to benefit a school in Ghana, Africa. The club will also use funds to pay for another piece of adaptive playground equipment to be installed in Heritage Park for children who may face special physical challenges.

"We (the club) purchased one piece already and we want to put something else in for the kids," he said. Tesen said that the club made about \$12,000 at the beer tent in the best year at the three-day Liberty Festival.

Patrons' identification will be checked to ensure that they are 21 or older and given a wristband so they can come and go at the tent without a



re-check of their identification. Tesen said that makes it far more convenient for visitors.

"We're very responsible about it," he said. Tesen added that the Canton Rotary Club is always looking for new

members. "We meet at noon on Monday at Antonio's at Ford Road and Canton Center. Come join us."

The beer tent will be open from 4-10 Thursday, from 1-10 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. on Saturday.



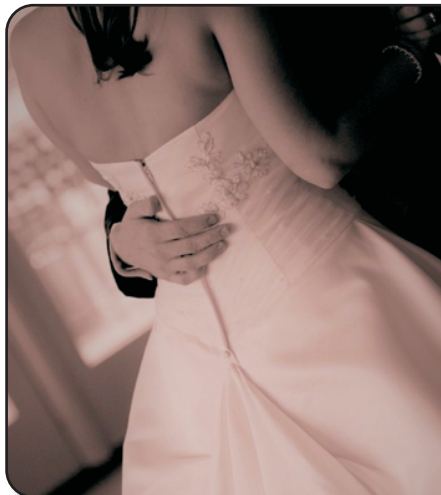
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Batter Up

Annual Lions' Pancake Breakfast takes place Saturday

Several members of the Canton Lions Club will be a little stirred up Saturday morning as they prepare to serve about 900 pancake breakfasts.

For the past 10 years, members of the club have been serving the morning fare to the crowds at the Liberty Fest and this year, once again, they will be pouring batter onto grills, flipping pancakes and cooking sausages to benefit those with visual and hearing challenges.

Chairman of the pancake breakfast for the second year is Lions Club member John Anthony, who is also the President of the Lions Foundation. Anthony was quick to note that the official name of the event is the Canton Lions Club Foundation Annual

*We start at about 5 a.m.
and we have three shifts.*

*More volunteers
come at about 7 a.m.
and then the clean
up crew is
there after that.*

Pancake Breakfast. This is the second year the foundation is the beneficiary of the funding generated from the event which is all used to support charities that deal with vision and hearing

loss.

The breakfasts, which include three pancakes hot off the griddle, two sausage links, and juice or coffee, along with syrup and butter, are priced at \$6 for adults and \$3 for those younger than 12. Breakfasts are served in the tent in Heritage Park from 7 a.m. until noon, or until they run out of pancakes, Anthony, a lifelong Canton resident, said.

Lions Club members and volunteers start work months in advance and on the Thursday and Friday preceding the breakfast, they are picking up equipment and supplies preparing for the event where they usually serve about 900 morning meals.

There will be three shifts of volun-

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Dinner: \$8.95 Turkey Dinner

WEDNESDAY
Lunch: \$1 Coney Special
Dinner: Chef's Choice

THURSDAY
Lunch: \$7.50 Lunch Perch
Dinner: \$9.95 Dinner Perch

FRIDAY
Lunch: \$6.50 2 Piece Cod w/fries or slaw
Dinner: \$9.95 All-You-Can-Eat Cod

SATURDAY
Lunch: 75¢ Sliders
Dinner: \$15.95 Prime Rib

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teers, including the festival volunteers who help the 15 or 20 Lions Club members prepare for the crowds.

"We start at about 5 a.m.," Anthony said, "and we have three shifts. More volunteers come at about 7 a.m. and then the clean up crew is there after that."

Anthony, a former FBI agent, said that the club members start planning for the fundraiser immediately after that clean up is complete on Saturday.

"We keep refining and fine-tuning," he said. "I even came up with a manual of sorts with days and times we need to accomplish things. Must be my military background."

The group is hoping to generate about \$2,000 for the foundation which is a 501 c 3 and helps fund Leader Dogs for the Blind, the Penrickton School and provides funding for vision testing and assist those who can't afford eyeglasses or hearing aids, particularly children, along with several other charities.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, June 15 1-11 p.m.

Carnival

1-10 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets are required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (rides require 2-5 tickets each).
- Thursday only wristbands - \$25 each - available for purchase during the festival.

NEW! Sensory Hours: Thursday only, 1-3 p.m.

Perfect for guests sensitive to loud noises.

- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games)
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets.
- All sales are final. No refunds.

Entertainment Highlights

Canton LIVE! Stage - 6:30-8 p.m. Zumba Party: We'll bring the music and instructors, you have fun. Theme this year: Hawaiian Luau

Amphitheater Stage - 7:30-10:30 p.m. Power Play Detroit: Cover band playing classic music of our time.

Festival Food and Drink

Adult Beverage Tent:

Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday 1-10 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by Liberty Street Brewing Company. Guests 21 years or older must show ID to purchase beverages.

50/50 raffle Proceeds will be used for a international project through Rotary International to benefit a school in Ghana, Africa.

1-10 p.m. Concession Vendors - enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and so much more provided by more than a dozen different concession vendors throughout the park.

5-10 p.m. Taste of Liberty Fest sponsored by Twisted Rooster - Area restaurants are on site offering their signature menu items, a great chance to find a new local favorite. Located at the south end of the park near the Amphitheater.

Adult Beverage Tent and Taste of Liberty Fest
have moved to a NEW LOCATION near the Amphitheater!

General Information

Please no pets, rollerblades or skateboards. Bikes should be parked in corrals located at main festival entry points. Parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children at all times.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 16 1-11 p.m.

Carnival

1-10 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets are required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (rides require 2-5 tickets each).
- Friday only wristbands - \$27 each - available for purchase during the festival
- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games)
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets.
- All sales are final. No refunds.

Entertainment Highlights

Canton LIVE! Stage

2-7 p.m. Meet Captain Barnacles and Kwazii Kitten of the Octonauts™. Come join Captain Barnacles and Kwazii Kitten stars of the television series The Octonauts, as they explore the ocean in search of adventure and fun. Don't miss this opportunity to see the underwater duo perform and meet them during special Meet and Greets at the Canton LIVE! Stage.

7:30-9 p.m. Silver Sounds: Dance and play along with the hits from our favorite DJ.

9-10 p.m. The Detroit Circus: New this year, a fabulous Fire Show.

Amphitheater Stage

2:30-3 p.m. Plymouth-Canton Step Team performance.

3:30-4:30 p.m. SKULE: Educational non-profit with a mission, and acronym, to Spread Knowledge Using Lyrics & Entertainment.

5-7 p.m. Seven to Zero: Local cover band perfect for the dinner time crowd.

8-10 p.m. Emerging Soul: Playing your favorite hits from Etta James to Bruno Mars.

Festival Food and Drink

Adult Beverage Tent:

Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday 1-10 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by Liberty Street Brewing Company. Guests 21 years or older must show ID to purchase beverages. 50/50 raffle Proceeds will be used for a international project through Rotary International to benefit a school in Ghana, Africa.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner 5-9 p.m. (While supplies last.) Heritage Park North Pavilions, hosted by Canton Fire Fighters. All proceeds support the Canton Firefighters Charity Foundation. Tickets: \$7 for those 13 and older, \$5 ages 5-12 (ages 4 and younger are free). Special performance by Taylor Taylor. This Lansing native will add her jazzy pop style guitar and charismatic vocals to this annual Liberty Fest tradition.

1-10 p.m. Concession Vendors - enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and so much more provided by more than a dozen different concession vendors throughout the park.

1-10 p.m. Taste of Liberty Fest brought to you by Twisted Rooster - Area restaurants are on site offering their signature menu items, a great chance to find a new local favorite. Located at the south end of the park near the Amphitheater. For a full list of restaurants, visit cantonlibertyfest.com.

General Information

Please no pets, rollerblades or skateboards. Bikes should be parked in corrals located at main festival entry points. Parents are responsible for the direct supervision of their children at all times.



Additional Highlights

H2O Zone: Noon-4 p.m. \$1 per person all day play. Cool off with water attractions. Near the Canton LIVE Stage.

Canton's Warrior: Noon-10 p.m. Become a Ninja Warrior. \$5 per person/3 attempts: Warped Wall and obstacle courses. Near Canton LIVE! stage.

Gaga Ball Pit: 2-6 p.m. The ever popular Gaga Ball! (similar to Dodgeball). FREE for all ages.

Mascot Meet-Up: 3-6 p.m. Meet local celebrity mascots from local sports and businesses. Located near the Gazebo.

Liberty Run Race Registration and Packet Pick-up: 4-7 p.m. at Civic Center and Veteran's Way.

Scholastic Book Fair: All proceeds from book sales provide books at our summer camps.

D&M Face-Painting: Find us throughout the park.

Marketplace: 4 p.m.-Dusk Local artisans, crafters, businesses, community groups, and vendors sharing information, goods, and services around the large pond.

Lego Tent: Check out the Lego Build that includes real moving Legos.

Spin Art: Spin Art, Sandy Candy, Sand Art, and Airbrush Tattoos. Canoe and Kayak Rides in Heritage Park: Rent a canoe or a kayak from Heavener Canoes.

Oasis Animals: Details TBA

Canton Liberty Festival



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 17 10 a.m.-11 p.m.

Carnival

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Wristband or ride tickets required for each person riding Liberty Fest carnival rides.

- Tickets: 4 tickets for \$5, and sheets of 50 tickets are \$50 - available for purchase during the festival at Ticket Booths (rides require 2-5 tickets each).
- Saturday only wristbands - \$30 each - available for purchase during the festival
- Wristbands allow access onto carnival rides without a ticket (does not include Midway games)
- Each ride requires varied numbers of tickets.
- All sales are final. No refunds.

Liberty Run

8 a.m. 5K 8:30 a.m. 10K 10:15 a.m. 1 mile Fun Run

Run, walk or stroll the beautiful flat, fast and accurate courses through neighborhood streets and the natural beauty of the Lower Rouge Trail. Medals for all finishers and shirts for all entrants.

Themed Awards: Red, White & Blue and sparkles.

Visit www.cantonlibertyrun.com to register and more information.

Entertainment Highlights

Canton LIVE! Stage

11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. International Festival: Art, music, dance and traditions of our diverse community cultures.

8-10 p.m. TBA

Amphitheater Stage

2-4 p.m. Wine & Canvas: Drop-in paint n pour. \$5 Includes a beer from the beer tent.

4-5:30 p.m. Midwest Dueling Pianos: A unique brand of interactive entertainment

4-6 p.m. My Trivia Live: Come play some trivia with your friends, while you listen to some of the best music around. Trivia will be offered to Adult Beverage Tent guests.

6:15-7:30 p.m. Weekend Comeback: A four-piece ensemble with female vocalist features pop, rock, Motown and more.

8-10 p.m. Crush: Detroit's best Bon Jovi Cover Band.

Festival Food and Drink

Adult Beverage Tent:

Thursday 4-10 p.m., Friday 1-10 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Hosted by the Canton Rotary Club, provided by Liberty Street Brewing Company. Guests 21 years or older must show ID to purchase beverages.

50/50 raffle Proceeds will be used for a international project through Rotary International to benefit a school in Ghana, Africa.

7-11 a.m. (or until sold out) Lions Club Charity Pancake Breakfast - The Canton Lions Club will once again be flipping the flap jacks and serving them with a side of sausage during this annual Pancake Breakfast. All proceeds go to support the Canton Lions Club Foundation. \$6 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and younger. Costumed Characters will be there to visit with and pose for photos.

1-10 p.m. Concession Vendors - enjoy all the classic foods commonly found at festivals, including: corn dogs, elephant ears, roasted almonds, kettle corn, gyros, smoothies, pretzels, and so much more provided by more than a dozen different concession vendors throughout the park.

1-10 p.m. Taste of Liberty Fest brought to you by Twisted Rooster - Area restaurants are on site offering their signature menu items, a great chance to find a new local favorite. Located at the south end of the park near the Amphitheater.



Additional Highlights

Kohl's Cares for Kids: 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Saturday ONLY (while supplies last)

Home Depot: 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Building activities for children

Marketplace: 11 a.m.-Dusk Local artisans, crafters, businesses, community groups, and vendors sharing their information, goods, and services around the large pond.

H2O Zone: Noon-4 p.m. \$1 per person all day play. Cool off with water attractions. Near the Canton LIVE Stage.

Canton's Warrior: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Become a Ninja Warrior. \$5 per person/3 attempts: Warped Wall and obstacle courses. Near Canton LIVE! stage. Don't miss one of the stars from NBC American Ninja Warrior.

Gaga Ball Pit: 2-6 p.m. The ever popular Gaga Ball! (similar to Dodgeball). FREE for all ages.

Scholastic Book Fair: All proceeds from book sales provide books at our summer camps.

D&M Face-Painting: Find us throughout the park.

Lego Tent: Check out this amazing Lego Build that includes real moving Legos

Spin Art: Spin Art, Sandy Candy, Sand Art, and Airbrush Tattoos. Canoe and Kayak Rides in Heritage Park: Rent a canoe or a kayak from Heaven Canoes.

Oasis Animals: TBA

FIREWORKS Begins at dusk: Bring lawn chairs, friends and family - there isn't a bad spot in the park to view the show. Please note that the carnival rides will still be operating during the fireworks.

Getting saucy

Canton Fire Fighters will serve spaghetti to aid charity

After 19 years, Canton Fire Fighters have learned a few things about serving spaghetti dinners.

They will be putting that experience to work from 5-9 p.m. Friday, June 16, when they dish up the all-you-can-eat pasta meals that have become a tradition at the Canton Liberty Fest.

Every year, Canton Fire Fighters 2289 Charity Foundation serves the meals as a fundraiser to help pay for their efforts throughout the community. The meals, prepared by Rose's Restaurant, are priced at \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and those 5 and younger eat for free. The dinner includes spaghetti with sauce, a dinner roll, a cookie and pop or water; all



for the benefit of the Canton Firefighter Charity.

Canton Fire Department Capt. Brian Switzer, who is vice-president of

the charity board of directors, said that the group uses the funds from the

See **Spaghetti**, page 12

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Canton Liberty Festival

Spaghetti from page 11

event to pay for hotel rooms for fire victims who may need the aid before their insurance coverage starts and also purchased bikes for disabled children in the area last year.

"We also do the Shop With A Firefighter program at Christmas," he said. That program helps ensure that less fortunate families are able to have gifts during the holiday season.

The firefighters enlist the aid of about 20 festival volunteers to be able to serve the expected 800 meals usually served at the festival.

"We are totally at the mercy of the weather," Switzer said. "It is all determined by weather. One year we served 1,000 meals, but if it rains or if it is too hot, then we sell fewer dinners. We serve the meals inside the tent, so people are protected from the sun and rain, but it would be ideal if we could hit about 75 degrees."



In addition to Rose's Restaurant, dinner sponsors also include Sysco Detroit, Mama Mucci's Pasta, Linde Gas and Absopure.

This year, diners will be entertained by Taylor Taylor, who will entertain with pop guitar and vocals.

The Canton Fire Fighters 2289 Charity Foundation was established

in 1995 as a non-profit organization to help support Canton charities and assist in emergency relief efforts along with other worthwhile causes in the community. The group also raises funds for a variety of charities that provide medical services or research.

All funds raised by the group are dedicated to charity.

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Liberty Fest organizer marks 22nd year at event

If Mother Nature cooperates, this could be a special year for the Canton Liberty Festival.

"It all depends on the weather," explained Jon LaFever, deputy director of Leisure Services for the township.

He, and the entire staff involved in the organization of the 26th annual festival, have carefully watched the popularity and civic involvement in the event increase during the past decades along with the economic impact in the community.

Last year, the festival came within \$700 of breaking even and paying all the costs associated with the event, including funding the public safety

“
*People sometimes
don't realize
the economic
benefits of the
festival on
our whole community.*

involvement, insurance and utility fees, trash disposal costs, entertainment expenses and the myriad of other costs associated with producing an

event of this scope.

"This is such a great community event," LaFever said. "People sometimes don't realize the economic benefits of the festival on our whole community."

"The Rotary Club could make as much at \$10,000 from the three days this year," LaFever said, noting that all the money generated by service clubs like the Lions and the Firefighters Charity, is used to benefit the community.

"This is just a microcosm of how much benefit the festival provides the area. We did a study about two years

See **LaFever**, page 14

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Canton Liberty Festival

LaFever from page 13

ago and determined that there is about \$100,000 of economic benefit for the community from the event.”

LaFever admits that he has a special affection for the Liberty Fest, having started working at the event when he was still in high school.

“Bob Dates, the retired township recreation director, started the Liberty Fest back in 1991,” LaFever explained, and Dates helped him find a job working with one of the festival vendors while he was still in high school.

“I loved it then and still do,” he said. This will be LaFever's 17th year as chairman of the Liberty Festival, and his 22nd year working with the event.

Organizing the festival is a year-long commitment that begins while the event is still under way. During the festival, township staff members take notes about things like traffic flow, power outlets and attraction place-



Jon LaFever

ment in an effort to make any necessary improvements or changes for the next year. The staff meets with the public safety department immediately

after the festival to compare notes and decide on any location changes for the next year. LaFever said that because of five-year contracts with the fireworks provider and the carnival operator, most of the contracts, including those of the live entertainment, are usually signed by November.

The carnival is one of the most popular and profitable events at the festival, LaFever said, and provides a significant contribution toward the costs. He explained that 10 years ago, the township was subsidizing the festival at a cost of about \$175,000 and seeing that cost decrease to the \$700 total last year was quite an accomplishment and a sure sign of the growth in popularity of the event.

“Every year, we say, This is the year. This is the year we break even,” LaFever said, “but we know that the weather is the biggest factor. If we don't lose any time to rain, we will do well and so will the civic groups.”



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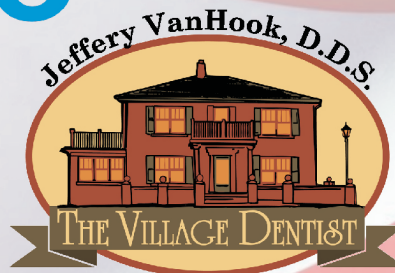
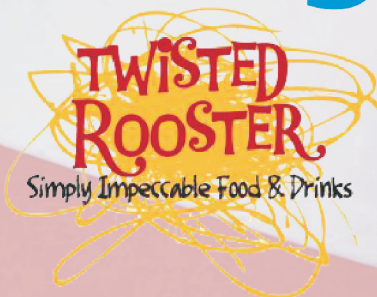


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